(b) whether the Government propose to conduct agricultural demonstration farms in each division in Chittoor district on its own responsibility and demonstrate to the ryots the cheapest way of conducting such farms;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise experimental gardens in each division in the Chittoor district; and

(d) whether they will consider the advisability of raising mango and orange gardens in chosen spots in Chittoor district?

A.—(a) There are four demonstrators who are in charge of the taluks of Madanapalle, Palmaner, Chittoor and Tiruttani, respectively.

(b) No. Demonstrations are arranged for in co-operation with interested ryots in certain centres in each taluk in which a demonstrator is working.

(c) No.

(d) The establishment of a fruit research station at a suitable place in the plains is under consideration. The Government will consider the desirability of establishing mango and orange gardens in the Chittoor district if any landlord of the place is willing to offer suitable land and to meet the expenses involved.

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—"May I know if any landlords have addressed the Government in the matter?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"If any landlord seeks the advice of the Government, then they will be glad to oblige him, and if my hon. Friend can give the names of such landlords, Government will be glad."

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—"There is the Vicharanakartha of the Tirupati Devasthanam who can be induced to do it."

The hon. Mr. P. T. Rajan:—"If he writes, certainly the department will give him all the facilities."

Public Works

Recommendations of the Workshops Committee for placing orders for workshop manufactures.

* 83 Q.—Mr. H. F. P. Hearson: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact

(i) that the Workshops Committee presided over by the Raja of Ramnad reported in 1926 that every Department of Government on the look-out for workshops manufactures should be required to make enquiries at the Public Works Workshops before placing orders with private firms;

(ii) that departmental orders have subsequently been issued to the effect that all iron and steel works costing more than Rs. 100 should be done at the Public Works Workshops irrespective of cost, an exception only being made in case the work is specially urgent, Public Works Department are unable to undertake it, and the outside agency is able to complete it in a specified time; and

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(b) whether he is aware that these instructions go far beyond the recommendations of the Ramnad Committee, and are directly contrary to an assurance which Government has repeatedly given to the effect that it is not their policy to compete with private enterprise?

A.—(a) (i) Yes.
(ii) Yes, to officers of the Public Works Department.
(b) No. The Ramnad Committee recommended that 'slack' periods of work should be avoided by keeping the labour and machinery working at full capacity as far as possible by a steady and continuous influx of orders.

Mr. H. F. P. HEARSON:—"May I ask the hon. Minister if Government will give this matter further consideration with a view to modifying their departmental orders and bringing them within the terms of the recommendations of the Ramnad Committee?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"As a matter of fact, the circular mentioned in clause (b) of the question, is within the scope of the Ramnad Committee recommendations."

Mr. H. F. P. HEARSON:—"May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the Ramnad Committee recommended that such work should be given to the Public Works Department *irrespective of cost*, if not, whether the departmental orders are within the terms of the Committee's recommendations?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"I want notice."

Cooum river improvement scheme.

* 84 Q.—Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the expenditure incurred out of the grant of Rs. 1·40 lakhs sanctioned by the Legislative Council for the Cooum Improvement Scheme within the Madras City limits in the years 1928-29 and 1929-30;

(b) whether the sea water pumping has been suspended this year during the summer months even when the water in the river was below the level fixed by the Government for sanitary purposes; if so, why;

(c) whether the Government are aware that even at that level the river was emitting bad smell; and

(d) whether any dredgers have been at work in the Cooum or Buckingham canal within the City limits in the past, and, if so, with what results?

		RS.
A.—(a)	1928-29	1,21,747
	1929-30	Nil.

(b) Yes. No pumping could be done this year as work on the diversion of the pipe line on the foreshore in connexion with the remodelling of the Beach Railway Station and the diversion of the Springhaven road was under execution by the South Indian Railway Company.

(c) No. The Executive Engineer reports that no bad smell was noticed by him during his inspection and that he received no complaints.